

HELLO AGAIN

VOL. 20 NO. 6

NOV - DEC 1989

A PERSONAL NOTE: Just a reminder about flyers: You may send flyers on #20 weight paper or less. Please send 300. If there is room, they will be included in the following issue. Cost is \$25. If you prefer, you can send a camera-ready master and I will print them. Cost is \$50 for two-sided and \$40 for one-sided ads. Cost of smaller display ads: 1/2 page (5 by 7 or 3 1/2 by 10) is \$25; 1/4 page (3 1/2 by 5) is \$15. I always print information from any subscriber at no cost, usually under New Friends or Old Friends...**Fran Carlon** writes about 2 radio actors who are not well and would enjoy hearing from you. They are Johnny Thomas and Herb Nelson. You can write them at the Actors Home, 155 West Hudson Ave., Englewood, NJ 07631.. A supplement is available for my collector's list (#'s 160 - 170). Please send a SASE.

CONVENTION 1990: Our first planning meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn-North in Newark on a Sunday in January or February. We need more people to help with the convention. If you would like to help, please let me know so I can let you know the meeting date.

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL: Ray Nemec tells me that "Little Red Barn," the early morning show on WOWO in Fort Wayne, Indiana for close to 50 years, is finally going of the air. The original long-time hosts for most of the run were Jay Gould and Bob Sievers...**The National Association of Broadcasters** closed on a glitzy note on September 16th in New Orleans with the presentation of the first annual Marconi Radio Awards. One award was given to **Bob Steele** as personality of the year of all the Large markets (WTIC-AM) in Hartford... **Garrison Keillor's American Radio Company of the Air** made its debut over American Public Radio on November 25 at 6 p.m. It is a 2 hour live variety show and will be on with a few breaks until June 9th. Most of the broadcasts will be from the Brooklyn Academy of Music. For further information contact Michael Shepley (212) 582-5521...Public radio is also carrying the Metropolitan Opera Broadcasts starting December 2nd. Texaco has been bringing the Met to radio since December 7, 1940. To celebrate its 50th year, 2 articles reviewing the last 50 years appear in the publication received by subscribers to the Met...The fall of 1990 could see on tv "Quiz Kids Challenge," in which 3 kids (8-13 years old) will compete against 3 adults...**Barry Gray**, New York talk show host, will host a late night talk show on WOR beginning Nov. 27 from 11 p.m. - 1 a.m. on weekdays. Gray last worked on WOR from 1945 - 1948.

The August 11th issue of **Back Stage**, the theater trade magazine, has an article on Radio Drama today by Toni Reinhold. Some of the groups producing radio drama or are teaching it follow. Contact them if you are interested. Most of the radio drama heard today are on Public Radio or local stations. 1. Eric Bauersfeld, **Bay Area Radio Drama**, Box 5615, Berkeley, CA 94705; 2. David Osman, **Other World Media**, Box 566, Freeland, WA 98249; 3. Sarah Montague, **ZPPR Productions**, 34 Gansevoort St, New York, NY 10014; 4. Charles Potter, **Radio Arts Production**, 838 West End Ave, New York, NY 10025; 5. Diane Huneke, **Midwest Radio Theater Workshop**, **KOPN-FM**, 915 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201; 6. Bill Moore, art director, **WBAI Radio**, 505 8th Ave, New York, NY 10008. 7. Everett Frost, **Voices International**, 2 Washington Square Village, New York, NY 10007; 8. Rosalie Zichettella, **In-Touch Network**, 322 W 48th St., New York, NY 10036...**Gary Yoggy** will be directing several re-creations for the Elmira (NY) Little Theater in January including Sorry Wrong Number.

Comedian **Jonathan Winters** will give a one-man, one-hour reading of the the Dicken's classic, A Christmas Carol at 3 p.m. Dec 21 on NPR.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: The **Listening Guide Newsletter** by Bob Burnham (Issue #1) with a lot of help from Terry Salomonson. Cost for this ambitious and very informative quarterly publication is \$12 a year. Individual copies are \$3.50 with free samples to newcomers. Its 14 pages are full of information and articles such as: much help for the beginning

collector; tools of the OTR collector; George Ansbro; a partial directory and a salute to an outstanding collector. I want to publicly thank Bob for saluting me in this first issue, a very pleasant surprise.

One disturbing bit of information in this publication is the fact that earlier this year, Premier Electronics which owns Radiola and Radio Yesteryear has sued at least 9 OTR collectors within the hobby for cataloging and distributing recordings of "The Shadow." Premier claims to have received an exclusive license on November 1, 1988 to market and sell these shows. At this writing the case is still pending.

Carolyn and Joe Senter, 4003 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220 are establishing a fund to help Bob Burnham and the other OTR dealers to help defray the very high legal costs. Please make checks out to "OTR Defense fund" and send them to Carolyn and Joe Senter. They are very reputable people and I support this fund. More information on the suit and the Defense fund appear later in detail.

Talk Radio Guide, Oct; articles on Bill Mazer, Sports talk show host; Himan Brown; The Friends of OTR Convention...Nov; article on OTR shows on cassettes as Christmas gifts by Bob Davis of The Buffalo OTR Club. Cost of this pub is \$24.95 a year. It is published monthly by Paula Dragutsky, 61 West 62nd St, New York, NY 10023...**Nostalgia Digest**, Oct-Nov, article on Bobby Jordan and big band music on compact disc...**SPERDVAC Radiogram**, Oct, article on Bernard Katz...Nov; articles about E. Jack Neuman and Walter Brown Newman and reminiscing by Dix Davis...**Old Time Radio Digest**, Sep-Oct; article on Ruth Lyons...**Milwaukee Area Radio Enthusiasts Newsletter**, Oct; article on Mel Blanc...**Illustrated Press**, Nov; article on the new Sherlock Holmes being released by Ken Greenwald and John Tefteller...The Buffalo club has just released their annual publication, **Memories**. It contains articles on Lux Radio Theater, Casey, Crime Photographer and Fibber McGee & Molly.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES: **On a Note of Triumph**; Norman Corwin and the Golden Years of Radio by R. LeRoy Bannerman; a biography of a man who elevated the art and integrity of broadcasting, virtually creating the classic radio style. Originally was published in 1986; now in paperback from Carol Publishing Group, 120 Enterprise Ave., Seacacus, NJ 07094; 1989 (\$8.95)...**Stay Tuned: A Concise History of American Broadcasting** by Dr. Christopher Sterling and Dr. John Kittross, Wadsworth Publishing company, 10 Davis Dr., Belmont, CA 94002; 1989 (\$38.00). This book was originally written in 1978. It is completely updated in this new edition. This has been a standard text for tv and radio majors but is an essential book for fans and collectors. The book covers all aspects of radio and television...Charlie Ingersoll still has copies of a book he wrote in 1971 called "**Minnesota Airwaves and Radio Trivia**." Send him a SASE for details (315 1st Ave. SE, Aitkinson, MN 56431)...**Pharmacy and Medicine on the Air** by Mickey Smith, Scarecrow Press, Box 4167, Metuchen, NJ 08840 (\$22.50 plus \$2.50 for postage). This book describes the way pharmacy, drugs and physicians were portrayed in radio drama, comedies, documentaries and commercials. Some programs highlighted are The Great Gildersleeve (Peavey), Fibber McGee and Molly (Kremer's Drug Store) and the Phil Harris/Alice Faye Show (Rexall Family Druggist).

Owens Pomeroy, 3613 Chestnut Ave., Baltimore, MD 21211 has written a sequel to "The Other side of the Microphone." It is called "Sounds Like Yesterday" and costs \$9.95 including postage. It is a sentimental journey into radio's past with a foreword by Ezra Stone. It will be available January 1st from Owens Pomeroy...On January 12th, The DC comic "**The Shadow Strikes (#7)**" will be on sale. It centers around New York radio in 1937. Included is a photo feature by Anthony Tollin with pictures of all actors who played the Shadow on radio plus many of the costars. Four other recent comics also take place in the 30's. They are The Shadow Strikes #5 and 6 and Doc Savage #17 and 18 in which the two characters are together.

LOGS: From **Ray Stanich**, 173 Columbia Hts., Brooklyn, NY 11201; "Encore Theater" 6/4/46 - 8/27/46 (SASE); "Texaco Star Theater" 1938 - 1948 (\$1.35).

ORGANIZATIONS AND CONVENTIONS: The Revival of Creative Radio was formed in 1975 to develop innovative methods to bring original OTR shows to audience. They have just started a national lending library; they also have a newsletter called Wavelengths and discount custom purchases. For details send a SASE to Timothy Coco, Box 1585, Haverhill, MA 01830...Tune In Philadelphia Radio (1920 - 1950) is an exhibit of early Philadelphia Radio at the Atwater Kent Museum, 15 South Seventh St., Philadelphia, PA 19106. It will last until September 30th, 1990... **Metro Golden Memories**, 5425 W. Addison, Chicago, IL 60641 has hundreds of vintage movies for sale on video tape. Send \$1.00 for their catalog. For phone orders call (312) 736-4133.

YOU AND THE LAW: Charles Michelson reminds us that if you have any questions about the interpretation of the copyright law as amended in 1978, write to Jerry Gibson, Curator of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540. Their "spoken word" vault is three city blocks in length and width with specially filtered air. The metal racks have company and/or organization name listings on top. Beneath are neat sections of mostly 16" radio transcription sub masters.

CATALOGS AND NEW SHOWS: Received updates from **Dave Siegel**, Box 610, Croton on Hudson, NY 10520; new shows beginning with "S" in his catalog are: Security Agent (1 show); Strange, but True (4); Silver Summer Review (2); Somebody Knows (1); The Saint (24); Screen Guild Theater (1942 - 47) (91); Secret Mission (22); Sergeant Preston (150)...**Bob Burnham**, Box 2645, Livonia, MI 48151 has new Cassette listings including several new Broadway is My Beat and Inner Sanctum including Detour to Terror - 5/21/46). Ed Carr, 216 Shaner St., Boyertown, PA 19512 has 11 new Sam Spades with Howard Duff...**Carl Amari (Radio Spirits)**, Box 2141, Schiller Park, IL 60176 has a new catalog of radio shows on cassettes.

NEW ADDRESSES: **John Wallace**, 7103 Sea Bass Dr., Wilmington, NC 28409.. **Gerald Eskin**, 30 Indiana Ave., Somerville, MA 02145...**Mark Johnson**, 21 Chipman St., Waterbury, CT 06708...**Francis Rylance**, 18 McKinley Ave., Lawrence, MA 01843.

NEW FRIENDS AND RETURNEES: **Paul Mina**, 2108 East 21st St., Brooklyn, NY 11229...**Wini Hall**, 52-40 39th Drive #9K, Woodside, NY 11377...**Danny Goodwin**, RR1, Box 103, Lincoln Center, ME 04458...**Paul Fixari**, 3268 South Pine Ave., Bay View, WI 53207...**Elaine Barrett**, 3630 Harriet Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55409...**Ron Tilton**, 2363 Henry St., North Bellmore, NY 11710. Ron and I go back to 1970. Ron is looking for a good reel-to-reel 1/2-track recorder...**Guy LeBow**, WNWK, 515 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022...**Richard Barstow**, 4 West St., Wrentham, MA 02093...**Thomas Benson**, 35-30 73rd. St., Queens, NY 11372...**Jim Bergquist**, 27 Overbrook Dr., Monsey, NY 10952...**Ken Borden**, 39 James Forway, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M2K 2S2...**Dick Buchanan**, 23 Jones St., New York, NY 10014...**George Cole**, 92-30 56 Ave., Elmhurst, NY 11373...**Marty Decker**, 2409 Golf Rd. #1, Eau Claire, WI 54701...**Matt Dietz**, 125 Cambridge Rd., Westfield, NJ 07090...**Harry Enberg**, 250 W 27th St. #3A, New York, NY 10001...**Harry Einbinder**, 303 Clinton St., Brooklyn, NY 11231...**Nancy Erlich**, 110 Bank St. #5G, New York, NY 10014...**Dan Fagans**, 3 Redwood Dr., Clinton, NJ 08809...**Frank Fucci**, 105 Deerfield Dr, Hamden, CT 06518...**Jack Gale**, 61 Arcadia Ct., Harrington Park, NJ 07640...**Keith Gamble**, 934 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139...**James Gauthier**, 1190 Iranistan Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605...**Walt Gollender**, Box 519, Irvington, NJ 0711. Walt has one of the largest collection of 4 Aces memorabilia and information and is looking for more..

Owen Gottlieb, 245 Rock Ave. Park Ridge, NJ 07656...**Peter Greco**, 170A Dafrack Rd., Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034...**Mel Groper**, 33 Beaumont Pl., Thornhill, Ontario, Canada L4J 4X3.

Norman Hillman, 11 Allen Pl., Sloatsburg, NY 10974...**Victor Jaskot**, 525 Main St., Fort Lee, NJ 07024...**Andy Jaysnovitch**, 6 Dana Estates Dr., Parlin, NJ 08859...**Martin Kornblatt**, 82-09 210th St., Queens Village, NY 11427...**Lee Maschmeyer**, 3806 Dukeshire, Royal, MI 48072...**Bill McDougall**, c/o Boncore, 250 Heather Hill Dr., West Seneca, NY 14224...**Ted McGaffin**, 33 Spring St., Norwood, Ontario, Canada K0L 2V0...**Paul Mellos**, 331 E 81 St., New York, NY 10028...**Kevin Moloney**, 281 Garth Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10583...**Shelly Postman**, 140-35 Beech Ave., Flushing, NY 11355...**Gerald Randolph**, 2934 Cameron St., Indianapolis, IN 46203...**Jerry Simkin**, 10 Avalon Ln., Matawan, NJ 07747...**Stu Weiss**, 33 Von Braun Ave., Staten Island, NY 10312...**Charles Wormke**, 510 Chase Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ 07071...**James Nixon**, 9 Brassie Way, North Reading, MA 01864...**Ernest Gibson Jr.**, 2611 - 33rd. St. SE, Washington, DC 20020...**Brian Rehr**, 36 Ellicott Pl., Staten Island, NY 10301...**James Thorpe**, WCAU - TV, City Line Ave., and Monument Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19131...**Steve Checkosky**, 90 Monmouth St., Red Bank, NJ 07701...**Michael Bushman**, 94-05 222 St., #2F, Queens Village, NY 11428...**Dude Frisch (American Image Archives)**, 2141 E 14th St., Long Beach, CA 90804...**Armin Hascher**, 4315 S. Longview Dr., New Berlin, WI 53151. Armin is looking for 2 Big Story programs involving a Cincinnati Times reporter named Bill Carmichael; one also involved his daughter, Pat, now married to Armin...**Walt Anderson**, 8901 Viking, Austin TX 78758 is looking for the words to "You Gotta Have Skin," a parody of "You Gotta Have Heart" done by Allan Sherman. It was performed on a tribute to Allan Sherman on The Comedy Hour on Mutual about 3 years ago.. **Clayton Logan**, 806 60th St., #3R, Brooklyn, NY 11220 is doing much research on radio shows of the 50's and 60's and is looking for any information he can find including tapes, scripts, etc...**George Inglis**, 74 Burton Ave., Whitman, MA 02382...**Janis DeMoss**, 5291 Jacks Creek Pike, Lexington, KY 40515. Janis is the new membership director of NARA.

OLD FRIENDS: **Timothy Coco**, Box 1585, Haverhill, MA 01831 announces that "Revival of Creative Radio" is starting a lending library (see above). Membership fee is \$12. Send Timothy a SASE for details...**Mary Lou Wallace**, 155 Aberdeen Ter., Syracuse, NY 13206 is looking for any editorial cartoons or columns paying tribute to Mel Blanc...**Carolyn and Joe Senter (Classic Specialties)**, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 are selling unusual OTR products such as scarves, shirts, ties and vests. Send a large SASE for their catalog...**Barbara Davies (Treasure Hunters)**, Box 463, Mansfield Center, CT 06250 may have just what you are looking for; and if she doesn't, Barbara will try to find it for you - all kinds of radio and nostalgic memorabilia; magazines, big little books, sheet music, program guides, games, comics, books, premiums of all kinds - all at a very reasonable price. If you were at our convention, you will remember her the past 3 years. Many other areas of nostalgia are available including World's Fair, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis, valentines, etc...**James Albert**, 2732 Queensboro Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226 has 48 different cassettes with over 100 (some rare) Christmas albums. Send him a SASE for details...**Tom Knapp**, is looking for a new or good used reel to reel tape recorder, 3 speed, with a double stereo track on each side...**Gary Yoggy**, 72 Bissell Ave., Corning, NY 14830 is looking for more episodes of Man Behind the Gun (has 8) and Words at War (has 12)...**Ed Carr**, 216 Shaner St. Boyertown, PA 19512 would like the person who bought The Planet Man discs to contact him (215-367-9114).

IN FOND MEMORY: **Maurice C. Driecer**, Aug 23, 78; New York City radio personality (Where Are You From; Find the Phoney)...**Joe De Santis**, Aug 30, 80; actor (The Brighter Day, Under Arrest). Joe attended our convention in 1984...**Walter Schwimmer**, Sep 1, 86; pioneer radio and tv producer; created first call-your-home radio quiz game (Tello Test)..

LOGS AND LISTINGS FOR COLLECTORS OF OLD-TIME RADIO PROGRAMS

LOG OF ALL NETWORK SHOWS: This 100-page log lists over 1700 network shows on the air from the 1920's to the 1980's. Each show, arranged alphabetically, contains a chronological history of changes in sponsors, network, days, length, and time. Exact broadcast dates are indicated in many instances. This log is a **MUST** in every library. Much of the information is not readily available elsewhere. Availability of logs of individual series are also indicated. **Cost is \$15.00 including several supplements.**

CIRCULATING SHOWS: This 44-page computerized log lists all available complete network and syndicated shows. Each item lists title, year(s) on the air and the number of shows available for trade. If there are a few shows available, exact dates or titles are often shown. List of sources is included. Complete or partial runs are indicated. **Cost is \$18.00 including several supplements.**

SUSPENSE LOG: This 40-page log lists every show chronologically and alphabetically. Each entry lists date, title, and up to 2 performers when known. It also includes an introductory part listing directors, producers, musicians, sponsors and other important information. **Cost is \$8.00**

HELLO AGAIN: Now in its 20th year, Hello Again is the oldest independent newsletter dedicated to the traders and collectors of old-time radio shows. Much of the information it contains is contributed by collectors including: problems and techniques in dubbing, tape quality, what different collectors are doing and what they are looking for, updated info about new radio shows being circulated and logs related to old-time radio, deaths of radio personalities and much more. It also keeps you up to date on the annual Friends of Old-time Radio Convention. The next convention is Oct. 18 - 20, 1990 at the Holiday Inn-North, Newark, NJ.

The first issue received includes listings of all OTR clubs, publications, many dealers, all logs available and many radio stations playing OTR. It runs about 4 to 8 pages an issue.

Subscription is \$10.00 a year for 6 issues per year. Send a SASE for a complimentary copy. Back issues are \$1.00. Ads are accepted.

MORE LOGS AND LISTS: (All are complete unless indicated)

Jack Benny (completely revised; much additional information)	\$10.00
Lux Radio Theater (completely revised; many new cast members)	7.00
All circulating shows indicated on Benny, Lux, F. Allen and ILAM logs	

I Love a Mystery (Revised) \$1.50 Screen Guild Theater \$5.00 Sherlock Holmes \$5.00 List of Collectors (180) \$3.00 Columbia Workshop \$3.00 Hallmark Playhouse \$1.50 Mercury Theater \$1.00 One Man's Family \$2.50	Fred Allen (Newly revised) \$6.50 Theater Guild of the Air \$3.00 Green Hornet (mostly complete) \$4.00 Gunsmoke \$6.50 Escape \$2.50 Guide for Beginning Collectors \$2.50 4 pages of tips on taping \$1.50
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CBS Radio Workshop (included with Columbia Workshop); Studio One; Ford Theater; Academy Award Theater; CBS and You Are There; Screen Directors Playhouse: \$.75 each.

Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514
(203) 248-2887
July, 1990

For All; Hit the Jackpot)...**Snooky Lanson**, Jul 2, 76; singer for 7 years on Your Hit Parade, making the transition for radio to television...**Evelyn Spitalny**, Jul 8, 78; violinist for radio; featured soloist in husband Phil Spitalny's All-Girl Orchestra (Hour of Charm).

Write if You Get Work....and Hang by Your thumbs

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JAY HICKERSON, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887. \$10 a year

'RADIO IN 1980'

MANY students at the Straus Junior High School, Dumont Avenue, Brooklyn, participate in a Movie and Radio Appreciation Club under the instruction of Samuel G. Gilbert. Recently, a group of 14-year-olds received an assignment to write compositions entitled "Radio in 1980." The following are extracts from a few of the themes:

As the silver strains of music came from the radio, they seemed to weave a magic carpet around my thoughts and I soon found myself in entirely different surroundings. In fact, to my great amazement I found myself in the year 1980 also listening to the radio.

It was not very much larger than an ashtray but it had the power to transmit the clearest tones imaginable, and to magnify a beautiful motion picture on a screen. The picture was in clear, vivid technicolor and as an extra attraction I could actually feel and smell everything portrayed.

There was also in every room of the house a special set used solely for the purpose of seeing who enters the house. In this way I could always tell if I had any unwelcome guests.

NORMA FIELDS.

Haven't you always found that getting out of your seat to change the dial very annoying? Well, I

have, and I intend doing something about that, too. There'll be a sort of contraption connected to the chair which when pushed will change to any station you want. But, I really don't mean stations any more. The dials will be listed under special titles, "Drama," "Music," etc. All one will have to do is push the button listed "Drama," and some sort of play will flash on. It's rather convenient isn't it?

PEARL MERKUR.

I wonder what the strange iron thing approaching me is. Oh, he's coming nearer and he's carrying something. "Welcome, this is the year of 1980. Would you like to see how our radios work?"

Gee, it's a talking robot. What shall I say to him? I suppose I have to say yes. "Then watch," says the robot. "First we shall hear the applause meter which tells us which program is the best one. 'Old Time Revue' is very high in their estimation. We shall put that on."

A screen is coming down from the ceiling and some figures are appearing on it. Why, that old man looks like Frank Sinatra. It must be him. Oh! Frankie, oh! He looks so real it seems as though I could go up and hold his hand. Why, I can. Oh, boy, what wouldn't the girls back in 1944 give for this.

LEONORE WALTER.

New York Times 12/17/44

It was the third and last day of the "Friends of Old Time Radio Convention?" held in New Jersey. After registration, the first morning session we attended was a panel discussion on "Ellery Queen". The people in the crowded room seemed very intent on what the three speakers had to say. The director mentioned that he received the scripts in the mail each week. It was extremely important to keep within the allotted time frame. Since the script was filled with clues, any cutting had to be done carefully. One of the shows was interrupted by a four minute news bulletin. When the plot resumed, the actor had to speak rapidly to make up for lost time.

On the way into a recreation of "Gateway to Hollywood", I helped a sightless man with limited hearing to his seat. He was from Michigan and had heard about the convention on his Ham Set. Through him I learned that people were there from several other states. He gave me the name of a Philadelphia station that broadcasts Old Time Radio Shows and then explained the premise of "Gateway to Hollywood". The show auditioned people for minor parts and the judges selected the two finalists. One of the winners had worked for the F.B.I. for over twenty years; had done some community theatre but had never been on the radio. One of the stars of the production was Bob Hastings. Since he looked familiar, I asked if he had ever been on television. He had sustaining roles in "McHale's Navy"; "All in the Family" and "General Hospital". This presentation of "Gateway to Hollywood", complete with sound effects, was about a demented mother and her equally insane adult son. They captured a woman and locked her in a large vault in their home. Before the show ended, the husband, with the help of the police, rescued his wife. The culprits were captured at the airport.

The best panel was the one for "The Arthur Godfrey Show" which was next on the agenda. Lee Munsick was the moderator of the seven man panel that included the first Talent Scout winner; the lead tenor in The Mariners; the band director; and a V.P. in Marketing. From the various people on stage we learned more about Arthur Godfrey who believed you sell yourself first and the product second. He could make (as in Chesterfields) or break (as in a soap that was environmentally unacceptable) products.

After lunch we went to the Dealers' Room which had cassettes; reel to reel tapes; books; posters; etc. all of which were connected with Old Time Radio. They even had some new radios that were designed to look like the old ones.

We then returned to the large room to watch a recreation of "Mandrake the Magician". The writer, Lee Falk, directed the presentation which was great. One of the most talented performers was Raymond Edward Johnson who was the original Mandrake. He could not be seen on stage because he was on a bed on wheels located to the side of the platform. The following day a radio program discussing the convention, mentioned that Mr. Johnson was in an advanced stage of multiple sclerosis. When I spoke to him, I found him cheerier than some people who have much less to contend with in this life.

The final recreation that we saw was "Archie Andrews". The lead was shared by two men who had been the original Archie: Charlie Mullen and Bob Hastings. The plot was funny especially the parts of Archie and Jughead. The piano player was Jay Hickerson who is one of the moving forces behind the convention and keeping Old Time Radio alive.

Although it was the fourteenth "Friends of Old Time Radio Convention", for me it was the first but I hope not the last. I learned about some shows that I had not heard prior to that time. I met and chatted with some radio personalities - some of whom have gone into television work. Perhaps the greatest impact of the day was the enthusiasm of those who attended. I share with them the hope that Old Time Radio - good, clean, interesting, funny and exciting entertainment - will return to more stations!

COPYRIGHTS

by Charles Michelson

While my company on occasion becomes involved with copyright matters, as I'm sure most other do, I must tell you right off that I am not a lawyer nor a copyright expert but only reasonably familiar with the law as any layman is. I do know what's right from wrong and that one does not take another person's property which they either developed from inception or by trade and publicly perform same on radio either free or for favors without at the very least, requesting permission from the proprietor.

Laws were established to particularly protect the writings of authors, publishers and the like. The copyright, according to the Webster Dictionary, is a right granted an author or publisher to be sole exploiter of a literary or artistic work for a period of 28 years with an option to renew for a similar period. The Copyright Law was, however, renewed on October 19th, 1976 covering all works and productions which include radio programs. (This renewed law took effect Jan 1, 1978. Now all works written before 1978 and copyrighted and renewed correctly are copyrighted for 75 years - 28 + 47. They then fall into public domain. In theory, no radio program written since 1920 is in public domain **if copyrighted and renewed correctly**. As of 1989, all work written in 1913 or before is in public domain. Refer to the complete, revised law found in any yearly almanac for details — ed.)

Now what does that mean to an innocent chap who acquires various discs, tapes or cassettes of radio programs as a collector either by trade or by purchase. It simply means he can enjoy the subject matter, trade it with others, in fact most anything he wants with the sole exception of re-leasing it in any form for public performance which includes radio stations, clubs, airlines, theaters, etc. The reason being is that this is where the right to copyright enters. Those rights are exclusive to the property owners and which the above law is designed to protect.

Several years ago a number of radio listeners expressed themselves as wanting to hear once again certain favorite programs. As a result a few companies sprang up and they each came to us and others to acquire the rights to certain of the individual episodes. A rights license fee was established, similar in many respects to that of the ASCAP music license fee basis and thus was the beginning of the cassettes and collectors activity. Today such firms as Metacom, Minds Eye and a handful of others market our and others' individual episodes on cassettes for home use. They also deal with retail stores such as Waldenbook and B. Dalton. All such cassettes carry a notice that the program is not licensed for broadcast or other public performance in accordance with the copyright laws.

As occasionally happens in a relatively new hobby, there are those people who try to pull a fast one. They avoid paying royalties.

We in this business think it's great that there are hobbyists helping perpetuate radio programs. Clubs like the FOTR and SPERDVAC are doing just this. (There are many clubs and reputable dealers who are also perpetuating the hobby and certainly not getting rich doing it. A rule of thumb is that when you sell shows for a living or play them on the air, check to see if someone has the legitimate rights to the shows first — ed.)

COPYRIGHTS & THE OLD-TIME RADIO COLLECTOR

By Bob Burnham 1

I have read Mr. Michelson's article about copyrights, and for the most part I have no problem with his comments. It does occur to me however, that there are situations occurring where Mr. Michelson should allow permission to an individual to broadcast programs even if legally he may have the option not to allow this to occur.

One such situation is an individual collector who approaches a non commercial station in a small town about providing programs for rebroadcast. The individual donates his time and tape toward producing the show, the station provides the air time free of charge. With a small station of this kind, it is quite likely that ordinarily they **COULD NOT AFFORD** the price charged by Mr. Michelson. Without the help of this individual, the town simply **WOULD NOT HAVE ANY** old time radio on the air **AT ALL**.

Through this means, both the collector and the station are performing a public service for **BOTH** the community and the old time radio hobby. Some of the station's listeners enjoy the programs so much, they go to their neighborhood B. Dalton bookstore and purchase cassettes produced by Metacom or Minds Eye, which Mr. Michelson says he licenses. In the end, **PUBLIC PROMOTION OUTSIDE OF THE INNER CIRCLE OF THE HOBBY OF ANY KIND**, will benefit all involved in old time radio, whether it be via rebroadcasts, publicity generated by conventions, or ads in magazines placed by dealers.

Old time radio is a very specialized hobby. Frankly, it is **NOT** a mass appeal hobby like car collecting or record collecting or ANY of the "collecting" hobbies. Because of this, many of us have had to work for many years to develop the old time radio hobby, as far as numbers of collectors and enthusiasts involved. It this "core" group who help the clubs, conventions and publications, but most importantly, **THE PROGRAMS THEMSELVES** to survive. I feel any minor legal technicality such as rebroadcasting, under the right circumstances, should be overlooked or made exception to by those involved.

Collectors who rebroadcast or who sell shows within the hobby without "official" permission are generally not mean awful ogres trying to steal the hides off of actors or producers, whose fine work otherwise might have been forgotten. These collectors are merely interested in sharing their collections with others or supporting their own collecting habits. Old time radio, after all, can be an expensive hobby.

Of course, there are exceptions to everything, and when royalties are legitimately due, they should be paid without recourse.

More often than not, however, I have found that when some of these companies or individuals who claim to have such copyright claims (with regards to selling shows) are asked to provide **PROOF** of their copyright or licensing, they never seem to be able or willing to provide it, which I don't understand. Obviously, if they did, that would conclude the matter immediately.

In a separate situation, let's imagine a scenario where a collector finds disks to one of Mr. Michelson's shows, let's say The Green Hornet. That collector then pays The Library of Congress to do a copyright search on that specific episode. Let's just say for the sake of argument a letter comes back from the Library of Congress stating either the copyright expired long ago and was never renewed or that specific broadcast was **NEVER COPYRIGHTED TO BEGIN WITH**. This collector then spends many hours editing out clicks and pops, running the shows through processing equipment and improving the sound of the show. Let's say he also invites a cast member to record a special introduction and closing to the show (our friends at "221A Baker Street Associates" in Los Angeles did just this with the new Rathbone/Bruce Sherlock Holmes shows that are now in bookstores).

Our enterprising collector then applies for an all new copyright for his new product. He markets his cassettes in K-Mart, Walden Books, Macys and other stores across the country. Can this

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collector legally do this? YES INDEED! It is HIS WORK that put the show in new, "cleaned up" sound, the introduction and closing is HIS CREATION ENTIRELY FROM SCRATCH, and the box or package the tape is sold in will be his ORIGINAL CREATION as well.

Without permission, could Mr. Michelson then LEGALLY copy the collector's product and distribute it to his stations, even though he already distributes shows from the same series? ABSOLUTELY NOT!

The situation faced by dealers today is the staggering numbers of programs circulating. If it costs \$50 per broadcast date to do a copyright search, and that dealer has an average sized collection of, let's say 15,000 programs, the dealer will have to pay \$750,000 just to do the copyright research.

Is that possible when most dealers within the hobby charge only around \$3.00 per cassette? No way!

As a dealer who has been established for some time, my philosophy is to use my best judgment as far as which shows I do or do not offer in my sales brochure. Common sense, for example, tells me not to list something like CBS Radio Mystery Theater, since that is Himan Brown's creation and property and is currently in the process of being syndicated again. On the other hand, I WILL list an Inner Sanctum program from 1942, because to the best of my knowledge, there is no valid copyright existing on it. HOWEVER, If Mr. Brown or someone else were to contact me with information to the contrary, and be able to prove it, then I would simply withdraw the show. It's as simple as that. There is no need to involve the courts or the legal system.

It is unfortunate, however, that we live in a society where everyone is so selfish, self centered and so bent on suing the next guy, if he does something that doesn't quite fit in his game plan. I'll scream if I see another commercial from a law firm advertising that you can sue your employer or your next door neighbor for something TRULY petty "We'll win your case and get your settlement, guaranteed!"

This very attitude could in the very near future, ultimately be the downfall of the old time radio hobby as we know it.

I heartily applaud Mr. Michelson and others' work in syndication to radio stations across the country. It has brought many people into the folds of old time radio collecting.

But as far as the legal end of things, sure protect your interest...but when it comes to the smaller guys out there who are really collectors at heart, not out to make a killing, PLEASE... EASE UP!